

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

In addition, the airing of any political materials need to be balanced via representing both sides equally; if this is not the case, then we're looking at a contribution to one candidate, which absolutely must be acknowledged in all advertisements for the show as well as before, during, and after the show - the people of this country need to be informed when a program is "opinion" rather than "news."

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.